

The Blood That Breaks Through Divisions

Crean Lutheran South High School

Irvine, CA

April 7th, 2011

Pastor Al

Division

- On account of our sin, we experience division (consider Genesis 3)...
 1. Towards God (FEAR).
 2. Towards our neighbor (HOSTILITY).
 3. Within ourselves (GUILT & SHAME).

Our divisions can get violent...back in
the late 80's...



We're getting a little better about racial divisions

More than ever you are starting to see beyond the color of skin!

1. My background: I am Hispanic, and my best friends in high school were Anglo-American (White), African-American (Black), and Filipino (Asian).
2. In my family, I broke with tradition. I am the youngest of four...my three older siblings all married other Hispanics...but I married a beautiful, blue-eyed GERMAN!

That's A Big Deal

- Because racial DIVISION was still very strong when my dad was a young man...in our little town my dad saw a sign on a fence surrounding a public pool...even though he served our country as a U.S. Marine in WW II!
- Even when I first came into my church district and attended my first pastor's conference in 1991...

But Again Your Generation is Less Likely to See those Divisions

- In America, its not a big deal to be a black guy on a date with a white girl and go into an Asian restaurant and be served by a Hispanic chef!
- That kind of happened to me, I was there with my blond wife at Benihana's and the chef came out who was totally South American with a Spanish accent! I thought I was going to see an enchilada suddenly appear along side my shrimp tempura!

Some Divisions are just Fun!



But One of the Most Serious All-Time Divisions...(NOT fun)...was...

- Between Jews and Gentiles!
- In the Old Testament God was protecting His chosen people the Jews from Gentile nations that threatened to destroy their faith.
- Unfortunately, sinful people made it much worse even though God had incorporated Gentiles along the way.

But...God was not going to let the
division stand!

- His plan was to work through the Jews to bring Christ for the WORLD!
- The Song: “Jesus Loves The Little Children”
- Because God saw the most devastating division that we FACE:

Ephesians 2:12

- ***“remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”***

Ephesians 2:1

- ***“...you were dead in your transgressions and sins...”***

So the Real Division

- Is to be divided from God...
- And when we are divided from God, we are divided amongst ourselves...
- But the Law stands against you...accusing you and revealing your sin...
- We want live right, but we keep BLOWING IT!

But God Has Had Mercy!

- Ephesians 2:13-14a

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one...”

Now Our Death through Sin is Covered

- By the BLOOD of Jesus.
- Leviticus 17:11: **Life is in the Blood!**
- The Blood of Christ covers you! When He was on the cross, He took YOUR sin and YOUR death and gave YOU HIS LIFE!

Became YOUR sin and YOUR curse



Ephesians 2:16

- ***“and might reconcile us...to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.”***

Ephesians 2:19-20

- ***“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone...”***

This is no accident!

- 1. He brought you to this Lutheran Christian high school, not to be another man-made division, but to receive the Gospel of Christ!
- 2. The division between you and God is GONE through Christ!
- 3. So that now you may know the unity of faith, the unity of the Spirit, the unity of Christ's Holy Church = and when you know that, that unity will spread between you & you & you & you & you...!